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Half Hours with the Best Composers

The phenomenal success of "Famous Composers and Their Works" has encouraged the publishers to announce immediately a new publication, which will serve as a companion work, entitled *Half Hours with the Best Composers*.

Its purpose is to place in the hands of subscribers an ample library of music at a cost of less than one cent a page.

THIRTY LEADING AMERICAN COMPOSERS

have been selected to write the opening numbers for the thirty parts, each of which will also contain, as a frontispiece, a portrait of the composer, followed by a brief biography and a list of his principal compositions.

These American compositions will be written expressly for this work, and will be

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They will average in length about eight pages, following which, in each Part, there will be about forty pages of foreign music selected with special reference to profitable entertainment, and requiring for its performance but moderate technical skill. The best that has been written by

THE BEST COMPOSERS IN ALL COUNTRIES

will be included. None of the compositions in "Famous Composers" will be duplicated.

The price of any copyrighted American composition such as will be accepted for this work would cost, if bought as sheet music, from 10 cents to 25 cents a page, whereas each Part of *Half Hours with the Best Composers*, containing an American composition and about 40 additional pages selected from the best music in the world and 4 pages of text, costs 50 cents, or

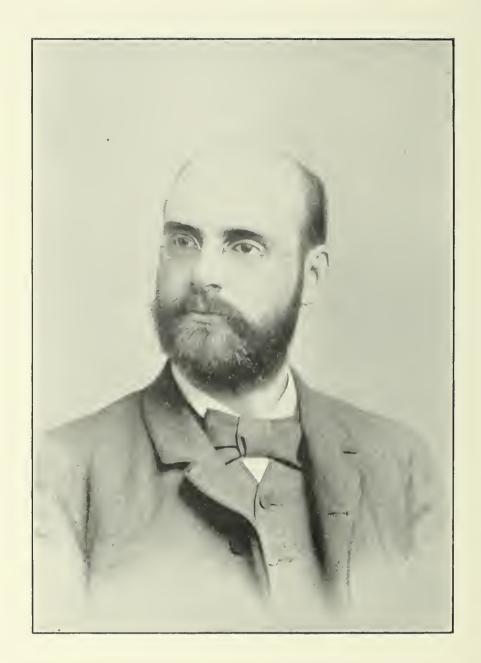
LESS THAN ONE CENT A PAGE.

The collection will be edited by Mr. Karl Klauser, one of the editors of "Famous Composers," who is well known throughout the country as an editor of many years' experience, and one who is in sympathy with all schools of music.

The work will be published exclusively by subscription and in serial form. It will be complete in thirty Parts at fifty cents each, issued semi-monthly. No subscription will be received for less than the entire work. For further particulars apply to

J. B. MILLET CO., Publishers, Boston, Mass.

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A. M. Ovenson



ADOLPH MARTIN FOERSTER



DOLPH MARTIN FOERSTER was born Feb. 2, 1854, at Pittsburg, Pa. His first instruction was given him by his mother, and he subsequently studied with

Jean Manns. In 1872 he went to Leipsic, and remained there three years, studying theory under E. F. Richter and Dr. Robert Papperitz, singing under Adolphe Schimon and Leo Grill, and the piano under Ernst F. Wenzel and Theodore Coccius.

Returning to America in 1875, Mr. Foerster accepted an engagement at the Fort Wayne Conservatory of Music at Fort Wayne, Ind., where he remained until 1876, at which time he returned to Pittsburg, where he has since resided, and where he has acted as conductor of the Symphonic Society, and also of the Musical Union. He has written for piano, violin, 'cello and voice (both songs and part songs), chamber music and full orchestra. His *Thusnelda* was given in Pittsburg under Theodore

Thomas at the May Musical Festival in 1884; his Love Song, for soprano and orchestra, was given at the May Festival in 1889 under Anton Seidl; and his Festival March was also performed under the same conductor at the May Festival in 1891, for which it was composed. In 1893 it was performed at the "World's Fair" under Theodore Thomas. His quartets, Op. 21 and 33, and the trio, Op. 29, have been performed in various parts of this country and in Germany.

Among his other principal compositions are the following:—

March-Fantasie, Op. 8.

Festival Music, Op. 9.

Among Flowers, Op. 28. Album of Songs.

The Falconer, suite, Op. 31.

Symphonic Ode to Byron, Op. 35.

Two Concert Etudes, Op. 37. (Piano.)

Much of his piano music is best adapted to teaching, the most prominent compositions being seven sonatinas (Op. 14, 16, 18).



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On the Sea.

The splendor of the sinking moon Deserts the silent bay;

The mountain-isles loom large and faint, Folded in shadows gray,

And the lights of land are setting stars

That soon will pass away.

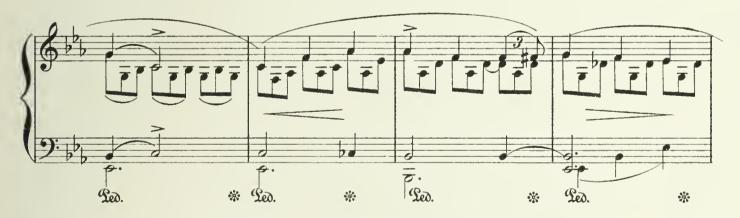
O boatman, cease thy mellow song! O minstrel, drop thy lyre! Let us hear the voice of the midnight sea, Let us speak as the waves inspire, While the plashy dip of the languid oar Is a furrow of silver fire.

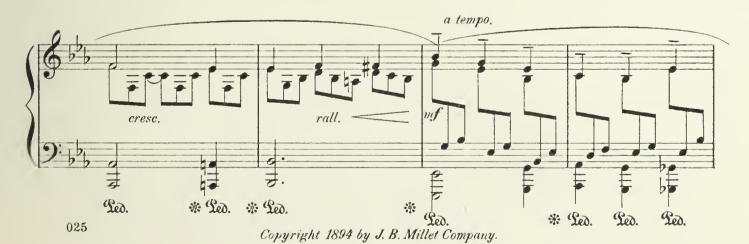
Poem by Bayard Taylor. (Pennsylvania.)

Music by Ad. M. FOERSTER. (Pennsylvania.)















Woodland Sounds.

Das jubelt und das hallet
Empor zum Himmelsdom;
Von allen Zweigen schallet
Ein Melodieenstrom.

In dieses Frühlingsklingen Soll mischen sich mein Sang Und in die Ferne dringen Wie heller Waldhornklang.



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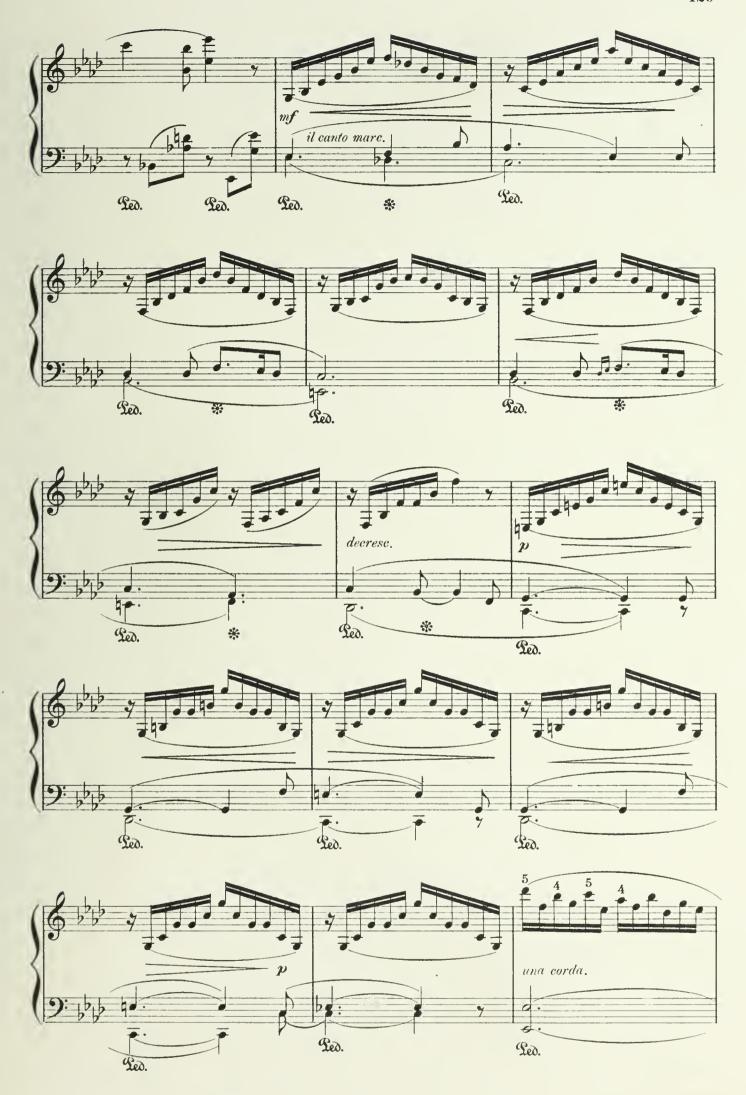




Barcarole.

ADOLF JENSEN.

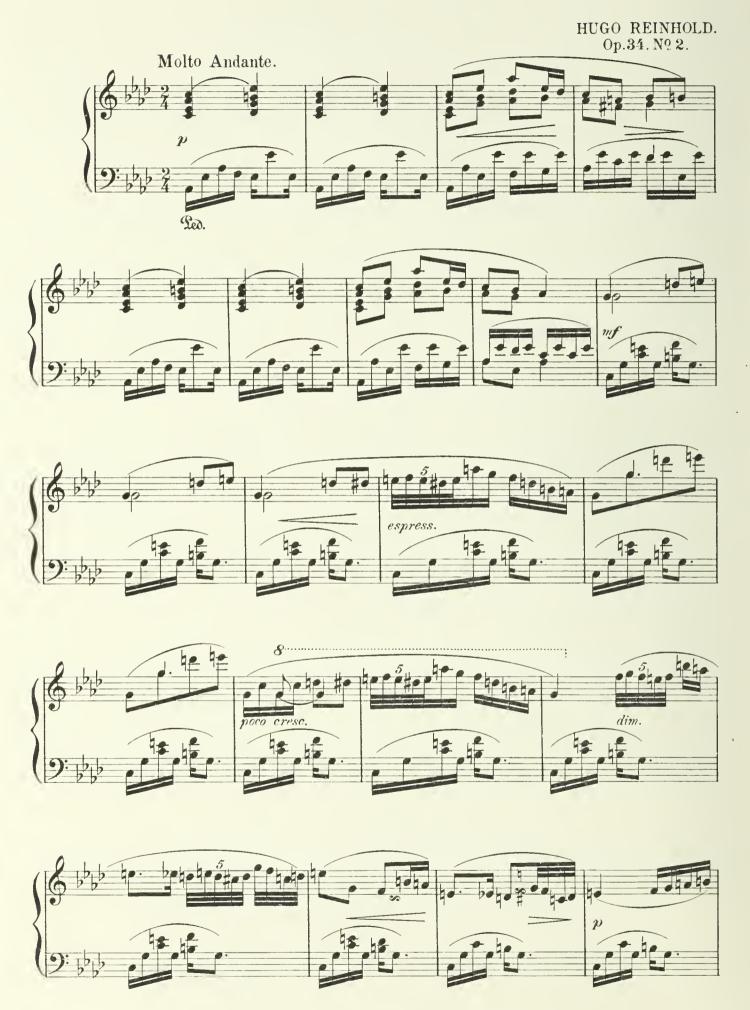








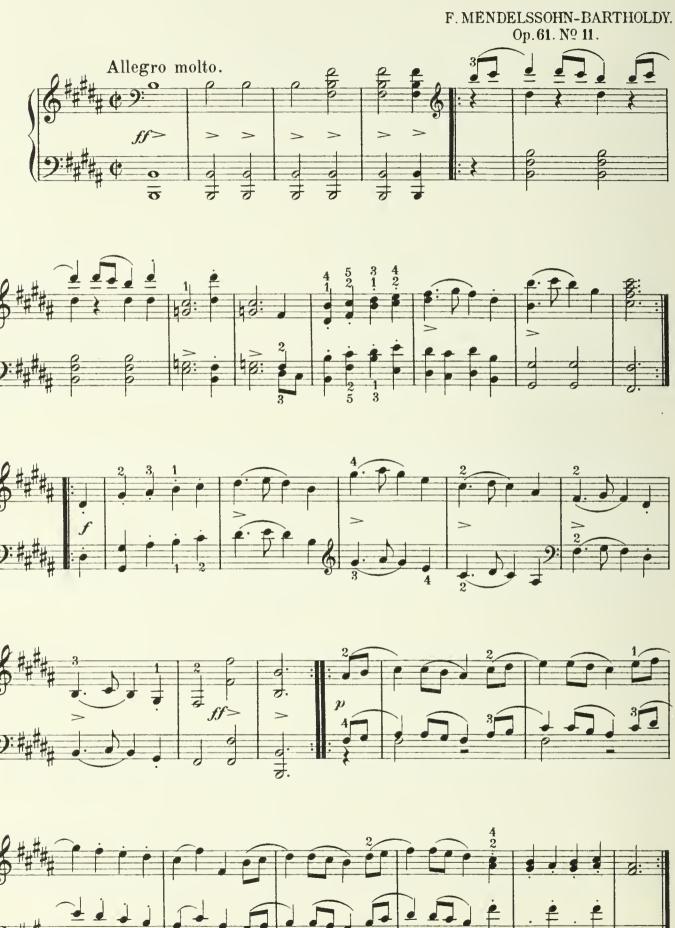
Cradle Song.





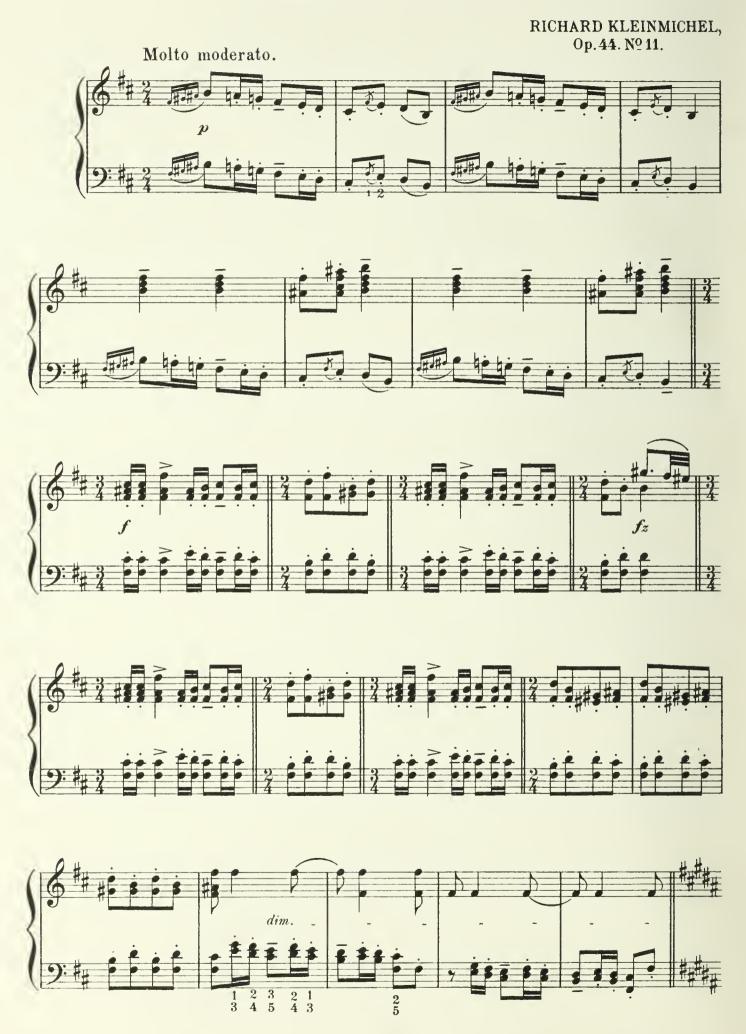
Dance of Clowns from the

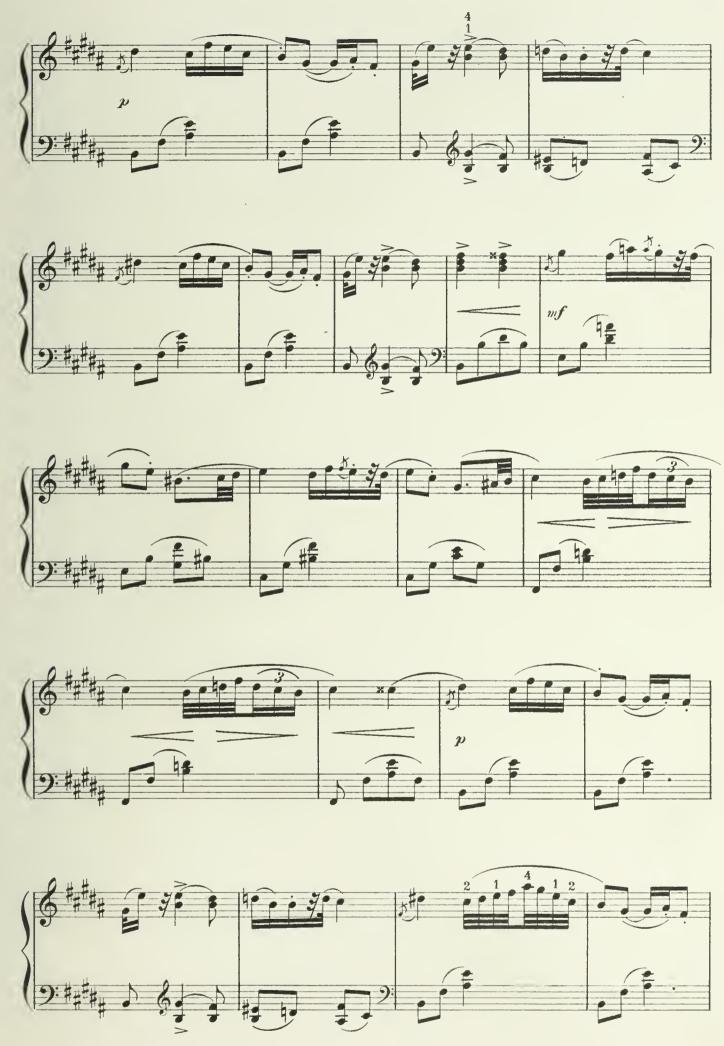
MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

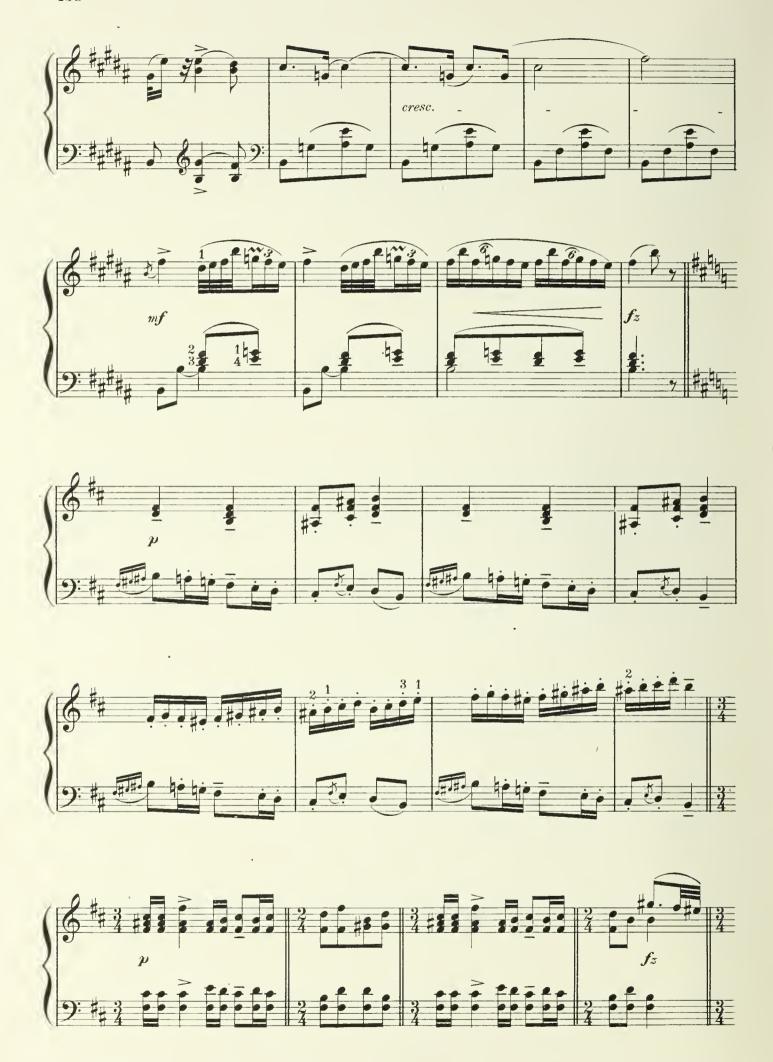




Wandering Gypsies.





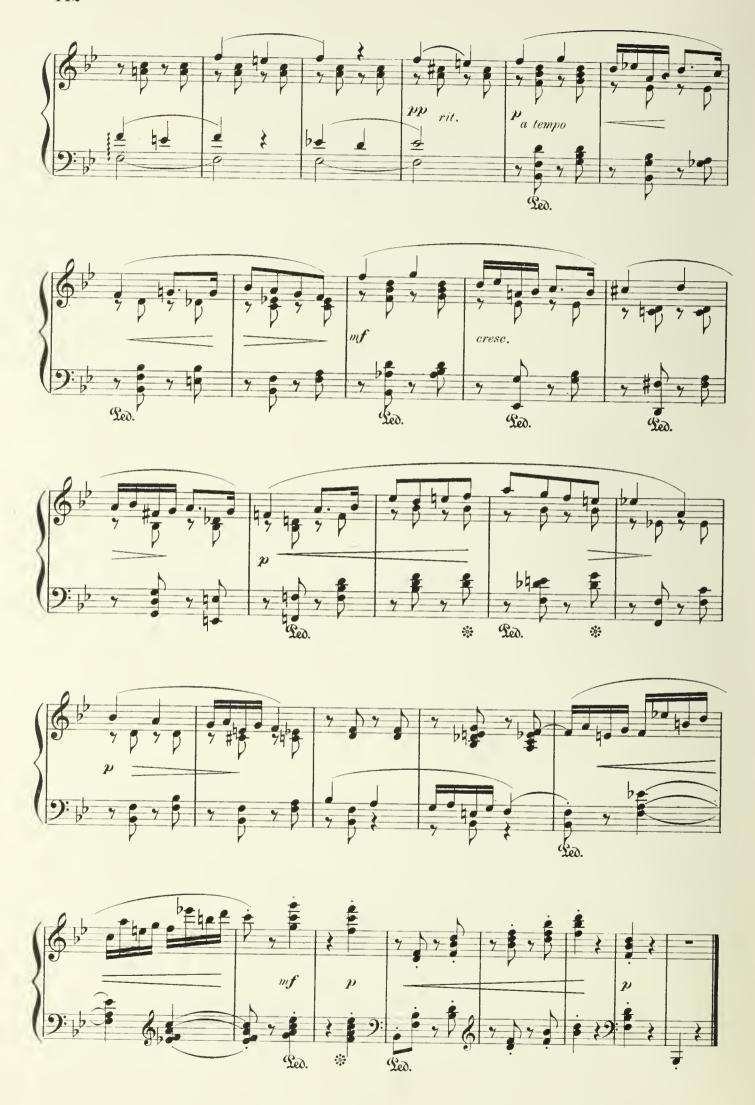




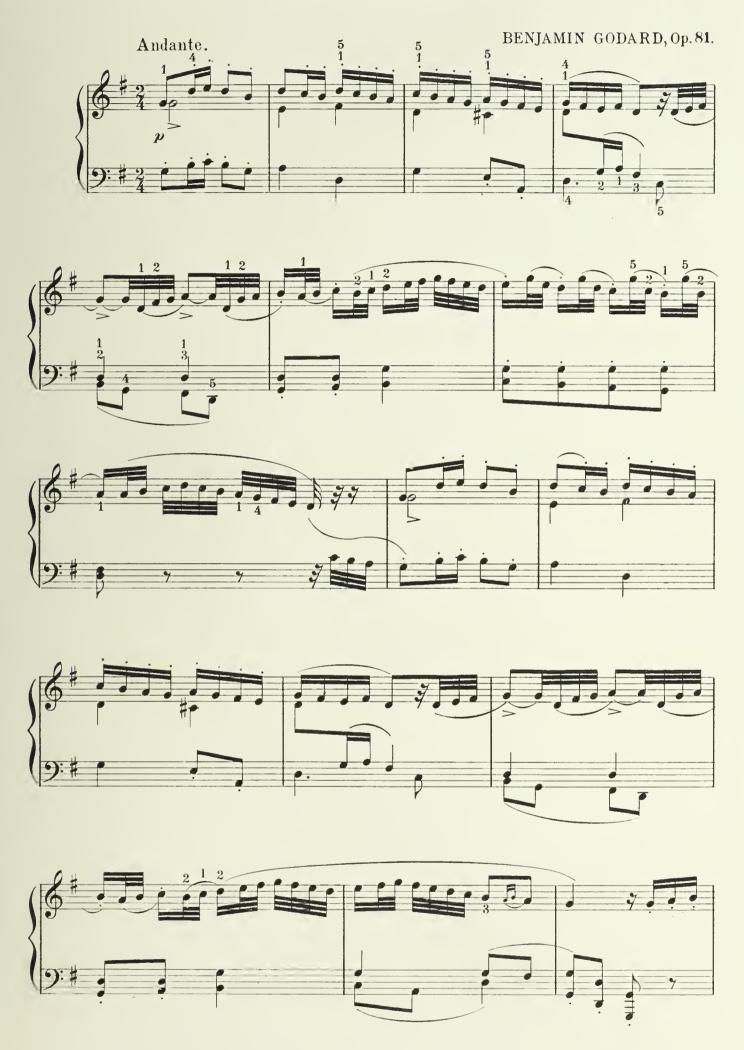
Melody.







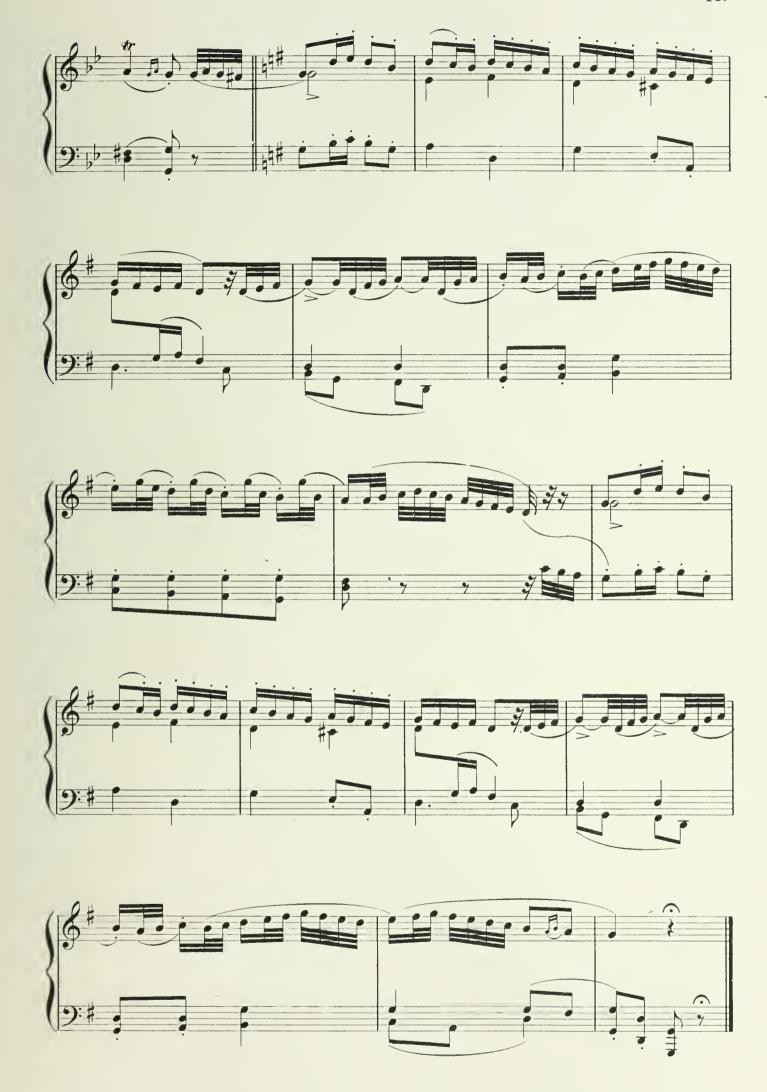
Second Gavotte.











Lullaby.



EDITOR'S NOTE ON WEBER'S CONCERTSTÜCK, OP. 79.

Weber finished this composition on July, 18th, the day of the first representation of his opera, "Der Freischütz." He brought the manuscript, hardly "ink-dry" to the sick chamber of his wife, who was then with his pupil Jules Benedict. He seated himself at the piano, and played with great animation the whole of the composition, commenting while playing, in a loud voice, as follows:

"The chatelaine (the lady of the castle) sits on the balcony, gazing anxiously and mournfully into the distance. Her lord (the Knight) has been absent for years in the Holy Land. Shall she ever see him again? Many battles have been fought. No news from him, who is everything in the world to her. In vain her prayers, in vain her longings for her noble lord. Suddenly a horrible vision appears to her. He lies upon the battlefield, deserted by his friends, his heart's blood oozing from his wounds. Oh could I be with him and die with him! She sinks down exhausted and unconscious. Hark! what are these sounds from afar, coming nearer and nearer? What is it that glitters in the sunshine at the border of the forest? The stately Knights and their esquires with their emblems of the cross and waving banners, receiving the wild applause of the people, and there—'T is he himself! And now she throws herself into his arms. What a surging of love! What a boundless indescribable bliss! How the branches and billows with myriad voices joyously proclaim the triumph of true love!"

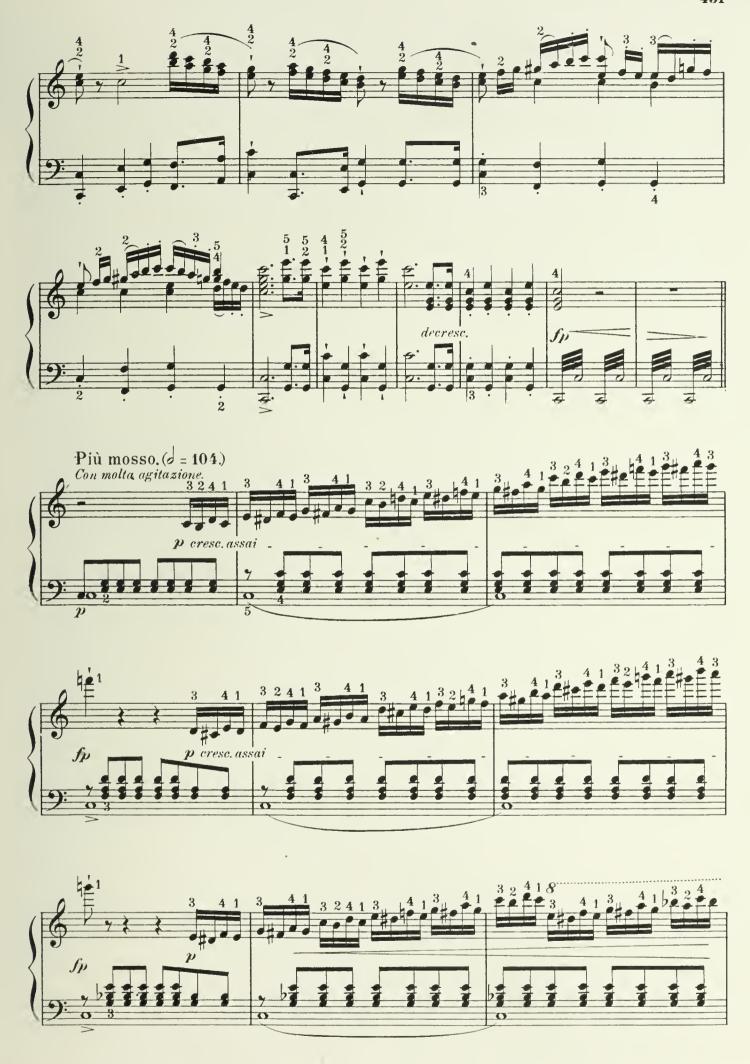
This program by Weber, was noted down by J. Benedict (a very early reporter) and submitted to Weber, who acknowledged the accuracy of it by a friendly nod, but did not have it printed as a "Program" on its publication.

The whole of this tone-poem being somewhat lengthy the accompanying selection commences with the March,— "Hark! what are these sounds from afar," etc

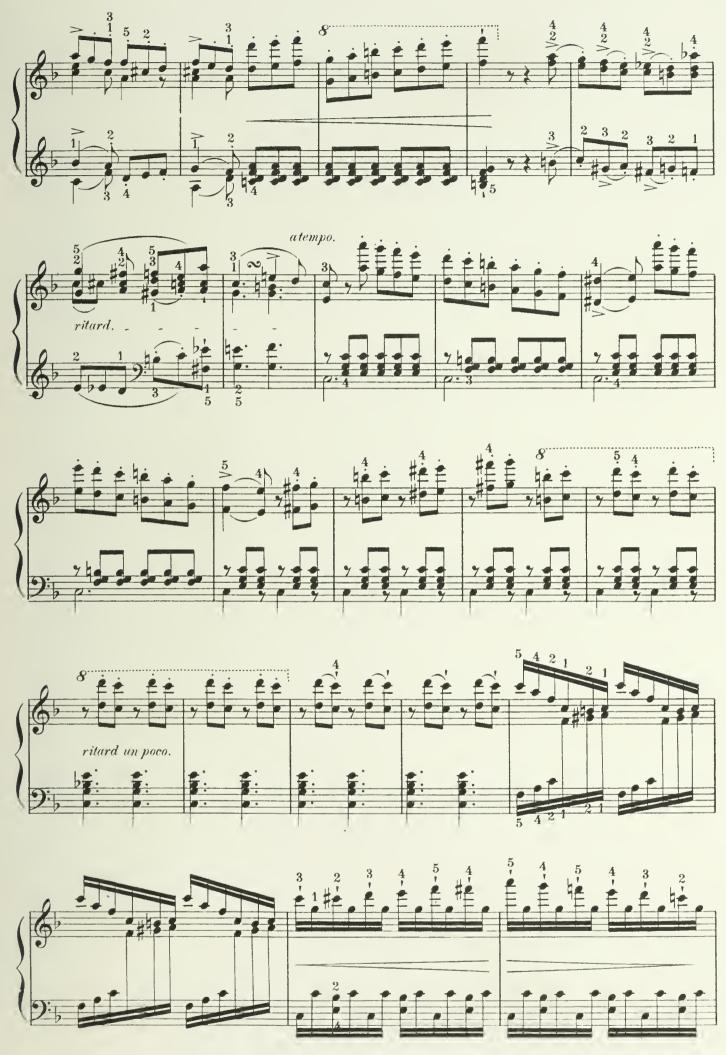
March and Finale FROM CONCERTSTÜCK Op.79.







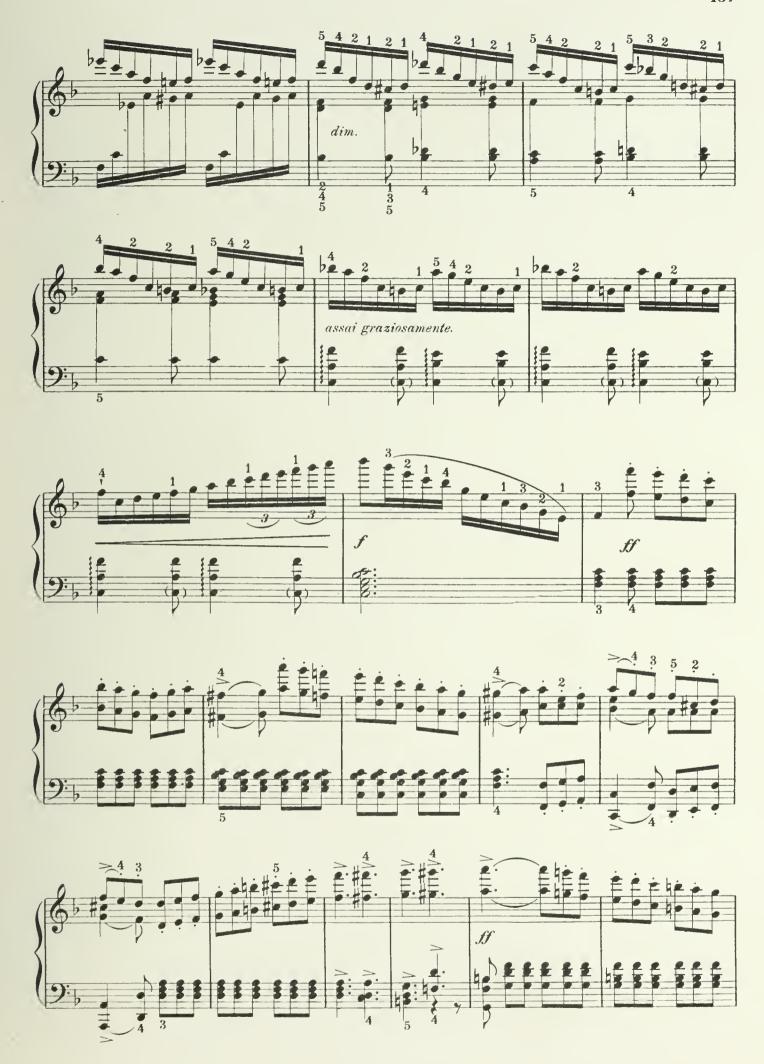










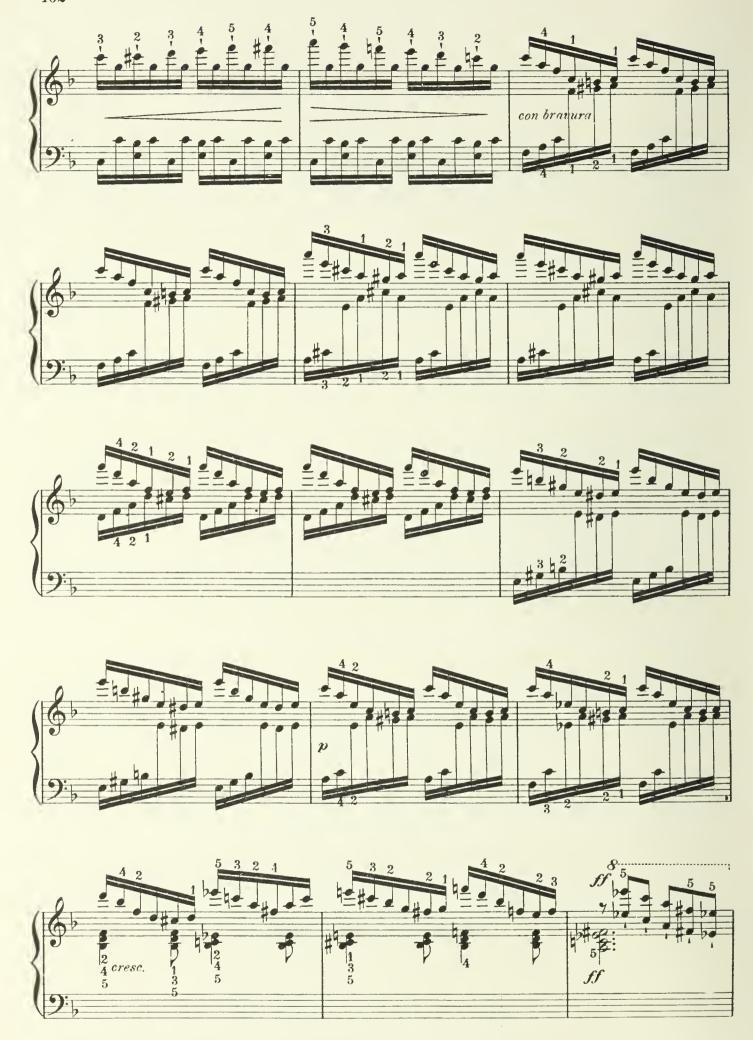


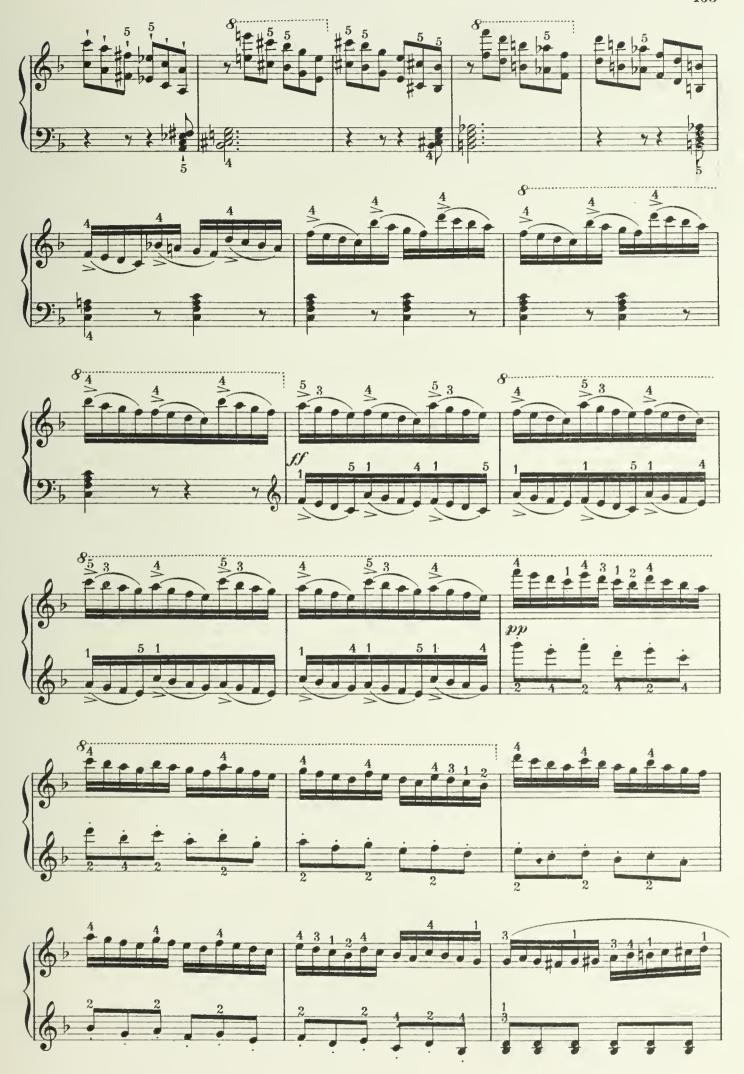


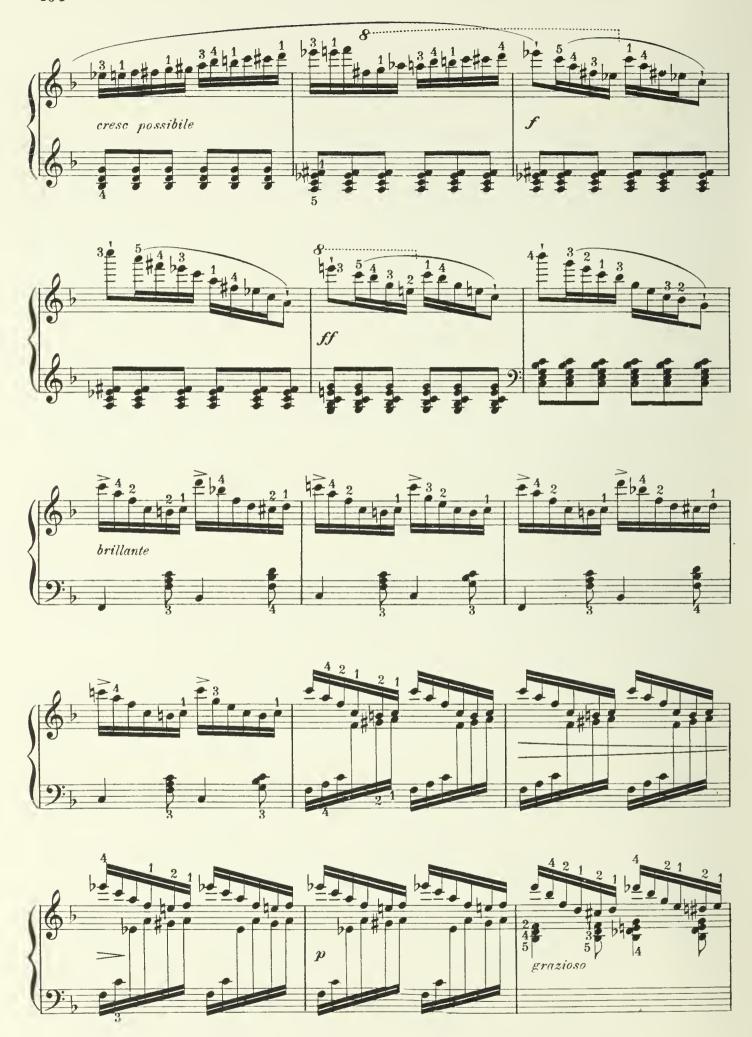














Duett"Vivat Bacchus."

from the Opera







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SECOND. — To give descriptions of the works of these composers from which may be formed an intelligent estimate of their genius, their influence on each other, and their position in musical history.

THIRD. — To give a series of essays on the development and cultivation of the principal forms of musical art in Italy, Germany, France, England, America, and other countries.

SCOPE OF THE WORK

It is believed that this book will make for itself a place in standard literature. Voluminous dictionaries of biography give brief statistical accounts of the lives of several thousand composers, in whom the general public have no especial interest. Complete memoirs of individual lives lack the conciseness necessary to a comprehensive survey of the entire field and are not easily accessible to the general reader. This work will contain seventy biographies selected for their relative importance and general interest; taken in connection with the essays, they cannot fail to educate the taste of the reader to a better appreciation of the works of the masters.

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AMERICAN COMPOSERS

